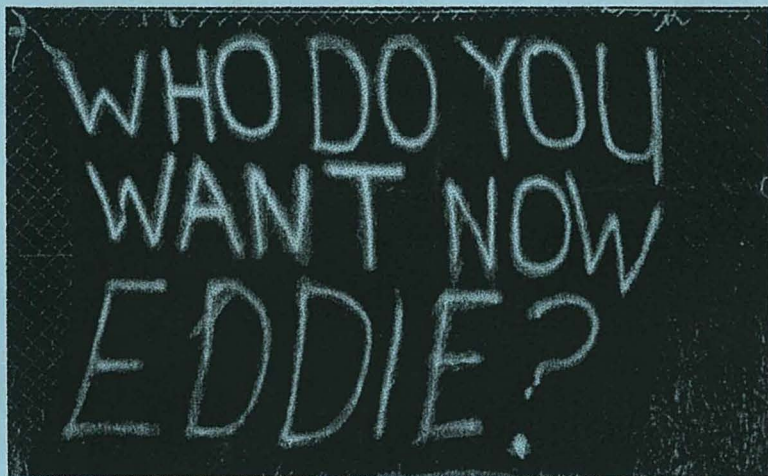


my blue heaven

issue 3
April 1999

the independent
voice of the fans

A KIND OFFER FROM THE FALCON'S FANS



Answers on a postcard to:
Gippsland Falcon's Supporters
c/o Falcon's Park, Morwell.

Please bear in mind you may need more than
one postcard.

editorial

Well it's certainly been a tumultuous time to have been a supporter of Carlton Soccer Club, both on and off the pitch

Believe it or not, since round 18 when the last MBH came out we have played 8 games, taking just 4 points from a possible 24. Meanwhile off the pitch we have a new owner (welcome to the topsy turvy world of football Peter), and have also moved to Olympic Park, all in under 2 months. Is it any wonder that the players can't score, because the goal posts have literally been moved.

What I'm getting at is this. This is what makes our game the great game that it is. It reflects the few ups and many downs in life itself. Remember the feeling of elation at being 1-0 up at Gippsland and Northern Spirit and contrast that with the complete desolation felt at the final whistle. Compare that with knowing when you're 30 points up at the 1/4 time mark and that you've got the game won...how dull is that.

Hopefully the new ownership will give us the resources we need to firstly become the number one club in Australia, and then to reach what has to be our ultimate goal, to be the biggest club in Asia. This is a great time for change not just at Carlton but for the game in general worldwide and who is to say that we won't soon be playing our part in a World League.

Stick with it, the road is long and we're only just at the beginning of what's going to be an extraordinary journey.

"Come on you blues!!".

Richard Roberts

My Blue Heaven

The Carlton S.C. Fanzine

Editor
Sally Orpin

Contributors

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
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All material, unless otherwise stated, is copyright to 'My Blue Heaven' so no stealing without our written permission. The views expressed in this fanzine are not necessarily those of the editor and you have the right to reply at the above address.

MBH welcomes contributions in the form of letters, articles, cartoons or snippets. MBH is your voice so use it.

MBH Quiz

with your quizmaster Paul Winn

1. Sean Douglas is Carlton's most consistent defender. Which European club did he play for?
2. Jeff Olver is the coach of our Academy side. What position did he play in for Australia?
3. Who won Carlton's award for best clubman last season?
4. Approximately how many paid up Carlton Soccer Club members are there?
5. A South Australian replaced David Hill as chairman of Soccer Australia, what is his name.
6. David Cervinski scored Carlton's first league goal, who scored the second?
7. Who scored for the Knights 34 times in 65 games, but at Carlton didn't cut the mustard?

Answers later in this issue.

Songs for your Sunday worship

Hey Blues....tune of "Hey Jude"

Hey blues
Don't be afraid
You were made to go out and get them
Remember to get it into the net
Use your feet or your chest
or even a header,
header
header, header...
La la la lalalalaaa lalalalaaa
Hey blues....
La la la lalalalaaa lalalalaaa
Hey blues....
Repeat

You are our Archie... tune of "You are my sunshine"

You are our Archie
Our only Archie
You make us happy
When skies are grey

Number 11
Sends us to heaven
Don't ever take
Our Archie away

RICHARD'S WELCOME MAT

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Peter Jess to our game and I wish him a long and successful journey through Planet Football.

It was also great that he fronted up at a press conference prior to our 3-1 loss at home to Sydney United recently.

Now lets get a few things straight first. I think its great that the club has got a new owner, who, as I understand it, is able to put money into the club to help it grow. I also think that its important to get away from Optus Oval, its not a ground that is conducive to a typical soccer atmosphere, and it's a positive thing that this has happened, although possibly a bit too swift for some peoples liking.

However there were a few worrying things mentioned in the press conference that I would like to discuss here. I would suggest caution by both parties (Peter Jess and the supporters) if he thinks owning a football club is a way to make money, something that he alluded to. My experience in England would suggest that yes you can make money owning a football club, indeed clubs like Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle seem to print the stuff. However for each of these there are plenty of badly managed clubs, who struggle to survive because their owners have treated them as a source of income rather than a sporting club. For this read Sheffield United, Oxford United, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Nottingham Forest,

Norwich, in fact the list is rather long and tiresome.

To be successful, in a growing market place is going to take a long term financial commitment, and will only happen if we are clever in how we market ourselves, and more importantly successful on the pitch. To this end there is no doubt in my mind that we must consider changing our name. The reason is quite simple, I've a number of AFL supporting friends that won't come near a club called Carlton, even if they don't play at Optus Oval. AFL is tribal, like Football in England, and as an Arsenal supporter, I would never, ever, ever, watch a team called Tottenham Hotspur, play Rugby or Cricket, which is what we are asking Geelong, Essendon, Richmond Collingwood and Hawthorn fans to do.

Traditional rivalries, be it AFL or football matter, and the fact that we are considering Bob Jane Stadium as a home is also a concern. It's again similar to Arsenal ground sharing with Tottenham, it just won't happen. So it shouldn't be considered on the grounds that we basically need our own identity. Again the list here is long, Charlton struggled to pull crowds of 5,000 during their ground sharing days at Selhurst Park and Upton Park, yet now they are back on their own patch at The Valley, they regularly get close to 4 times that amount. Brighton are also having a terrible time, with their fans having to travel to Gillingham (Over

150kms round trip) and crowds are a fraction of what they were. Share a ground, particularly with your local rivals, and you lose your identity, exactly what we need to be working hard to establish at this moment. Olympic Park seems to be the natural home of football in Melbourne and therefore our natural home as Melbourne's leading and most forward looking team.

Finally Peter, one word of advice, if

you are going to be late for the press, yeah blame the traffic by all means, but don't mention that you'd been surfing, that was an important day for a lot of people, and whilst I admire your honesty, it did stick in a number of peoples throats.

Good luck Peter, and heres to a long and hopefully successful future at Carlton.

Richard Roberts

LIFE AFTER SPORT

"Recently, while addressing a school presentation night, I was asked by a parent what I did before becoming a full-time professional soccer player.

This parent was obviously concerned that her kids could become full-time players at a very young age, and end up leaving the sport, with the majority of their lives still to live, with no qualifications or work experience. In my case I was lucky and replied that I had completed University before "turning pro". A nod and a smile of satisfaction showed me that the parent had won a silent battle with her son/daughter - "Finish your schooling first!!".

Sadly, at the moment, many young kids are entering into a life of soccer with no plans for "life after sport". So, the Australian Professional Footballers Association have decided to try addressing this problem by introducing the Athlete Career and Education (ACE) Program, first piloting the scheme in Victorian Ericsson Cup clubs, then with plans to take it nationwide.

The ACE Program is a program of

the Australian Institute of Sport and the network of state institutes and academies of sport. It provides all eligible athletes with career, educational, and professional development services. The challenge confronting many athletes, however, is how to maintain the balance between their sporting and vocational aspirations. The ACE Advisor's role is to assist athletes to more effectively combine these areas without compromising their sporting objectives. With all costs from the program being met by the Association, it is a great opportunity for all players to further develop their careers outside soccer, and for new or young players to be confident that life will not stop at 30 when choosing to pursue a full-time soccer career.

So, the next time a parent asks me a similar question I will be able to confidently reply that soccer is a professional and caring sport that looks after the "outside" needs of it's participants as well as looking after their sporting needs."

Roly

EVERYONE LOVES A HOME GROWN HERO

Home grown heroes have an extra special meaning for fans of any club. The local lad made good, having come up through the youth teams and in our case from feeder clubs, makes the player extra special in the eyes of the fan. Maybe it's because fans can identify with someone who has made the big time they themselves have always dreamt of. Or maybe it's just that local pride and success is worth more than something bought.

The other great benefit of home grown talent is of course it saves a fortune in transfer fees and provides a healthy income by selling on players who don't make our first team but may do elsewhere. A successful youth structure can lead to great empire building. English clubs such as Manchester United and Liverpool (to name the two most famous) have won countless honours with home grown talent.

So for Carlton it's great that we have a healthy youth academy and network of feeder clubs and scouts, which is already bearing rich fruit. At the time of writing Jeff Oliver's Academy team went three points clear at the top of the Southern Youth League table after defeating South Melbourne 2-1 and Albury-Wodonga (the Carlton feeder association) had their first win for the season defeating the highly-fancied Melbourne Knights 2-1. On top of that the success of the Colts this season with their championship win is something we should be proud of and also augurs well for the future.

However before I race off dreaming of Busbyte successes for Carlton it must be remembered that there's a

stark difference here. When our youth players become successful they'll be sold on. It's the inescapable fact of the N.S.L. Any fan should want their players to have a successful career in the top-flight and this naturally means European football.

This year we are likely to lose two of our very promising young players in Bresciano and Colosimo, having already seen Vlahos go to Panathinaikos and Grella to Empoli. No doubt Bresciano and Colosimo will be snapped up by European football scouts in Holland whilst training for the World Youth Cup. While we can admire their success and be proud that they played for Carlton, we have to rebuild and will constantly have to do so. The more successful our young talents are the higher the turnover.

So two things seem important for the long-term success of Carlton. The maintenance and improvement of the youth system, pumping out a rich flow of talented youngsters to take the place of those leaving, and instilling such a Carlton 'spirit' in the players we produce that at the end of their careers they return to Carlton to grace our team once more. There has been a lot of talk of getting an overseas star next season but imagine in 10 or 11 years time Andy Vlahos returning home to Carlton after a hugely successful European career to use his exquisitely honed skills for the Blues benefit once again.

It's a long-term view that we must hope Sticca, Jess and Co. choose to take. Sure, start a lucrative business selling on our successful young talent, but also reap the benefits down the line.

Sally



Eddie's Fashion Tips

Everyone has that moment when they look in the mirror in the morning and think woah, my hair looks like a pineapple. I've found a solution.

Before you go to bed at night, cut out the inside of a pineapple and put it on your head.

When you wake up and you look in the mirror, and think, damn I've got a pineapple head today, remove the pineapple to reveal a beautifully conditioned head of hair, that smells beautiful too.



Message Board

If you're on the net and keen to talk Carlton 7 day's a week, then visit the message board dedicated to the blues.

It's another great way of airing your views on the team you love.

The message board can be found at

<http://www.INSIDETheWeb.com/messageboard/mbs.cgi?acct=mb212024>

MY BLUE SENSE WORTH

"What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"

Yes, granted. But it just doesn't sound the same to say "Mmmm, this gherkin sure smells lovely".

So why do I have a problem with Carlton?

Now don't get me wrong. I love Carlton Soccer Club. I was there at the first game at Bob Jane Stadium for the Tynan-Eyre Cup. There were only a few of us, but we loved Carlton back then as much as we do now. And that's a familiar story. Carlton fans love Carlton Soccer Club.

But, I kept asking myself - and have done for the past two seasons - why doesn't everybody love Carlton? We're professional, we wear the best uniforms in the league, we play attractive football and we're multi-cultural. What more could you ask for?

Sure, we played on a footy ground with a cricket pitch in the middle. Sure, we didn't have 60 second ads on prime time TV, and sure, even the soccer media gave us no favours.

But people did know about us and people still stayed away.

Thousands of soccer players in leagues across the state who are all dying for a healthy league and local National League clubs to support are still staying away. They all know where we are. Yet they still decide not to come.

Let me hypothesise:

Carlton is a suburb of Melbourne in the state of Victoria. I do not live in Carlton. I don't support Carlton Football Club. I don't even work in Carlton. How many people do?

What allegiance can we possibly have to Carlton? It's a bit like admitting Bulleen or Thomastown to the National League. I don't live anywhere near those places, why should I support them?

What's more, Carlton has the additional burden of sharing a name with

one of the AFL's most hated clubs. AFL teams have transcended traditional geographic borders - but soccer is not that strong yet.

I thought changing the name of the club to Melbourne or Victoria (and I'm still not convinced The Blues is the right nickname either) would give us the opportunity to appeal to a wider cross-section of the Melbourne sporting public.

I live in Melbourne. I was born in Melbourne. I work in Melbourne. Who else does? About 4 million people, that's who! Despite the fact that Melbourne is also the name of an AFL club and there is already a host of other "Melbourne" clubs in other sports (eg Knights, Tigers, Demons, Storm) it's still a name I can relate to. I have an affinity with Melbourne. We all do.

And that's what the "Carlton" spirit is all about, isn't it? Being inclusive, rather than divisive. Welcoming everybody, not just those who live in the 3053 postcode.

I will still love the Carlton Soccer Club, because I believe it shares my vision for what a soccer club should be. I only wish our name reflected that inclusive spirit so more people would be encouraged to share that vision.

Footnote:

My idea for the perfect name: the Victoria Cross.

Victoria includes us all, even our feeder clubs (except maybe Albury!). The Victoria Cross is a real "thing". That "real thing" is a famous medal of honour, awarded for great courage and bravery. "Cross" is a soccer term (like Strikers). You could use the Southern Cross as a visual identity. You could keep the navy blue and white as the colours without damaging the image. In fact navy blue and white are traditional Victorian colours. You do not alienate any Victorian footy fans from any club. You avoid a clash with the Melbourne Knights over the name.

True Blue Tone

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BLUE

"N.B. This article was written before the announcement that the CSC will remain as the CSC. I am happy to see that the new owners came to the same conclusion as I did."

Melbourne Demons, Melbourne Knights, Melbourne Tigers, Melbourne United, Melbourne Titans Now you try and pick the new soccer club for the next millennium, it's a bit hard when they all sound so similar.

Now replace the Melbourne United with Carlton Blues and the club becomes a lot more prominent don't you think? This is the dilemma that we are going to face in the coming months when the new owners of this soccer club try to come to terms with a new name. I ask why do we need a new name? The one we have got cannot be bettered.

Mention the name Carlton to any sports loving person and whether they hate the club or love it one of the first emotions that they feel is respect. Respect for a great club that not only demands success but also produces it in copious quantities.

So I ask you again why change a name

that has prominence and commands respect?

Now let's get to the colours. I think that whoever dreamed up the colours of the CSC deserves a big slap on the back. They are brilliant!

On the field the team does not look like a mob of clowns like some other teams do.

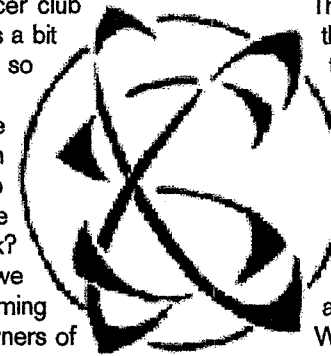
They look smart and cool, just the way you would want a team to perform let alone look. Off the field it is a combination of colours that anyone would be proud to wear. I often get people stopping me in the street to ask where I got my tracksuit from and then to ask more about the CSC.

What better advertisement can you get?

I plead with the new owners if you are reading this (and you should be reading the MBH if you want to know how your supporters and members feel out here) do not change the club name or colours!

Change the venue or the playing days and time if you have to but leave us with a name that stands proud and true amongst sporting clubs across Australia - the CARLTON BLUES!

Kevin Milstein.



STICCA STICKS TO CARLTON NAME

As far as the recent debate sparked by Carlton keeping its name, Lou says any change of name would be a cop-out.

"We've worked hard to build this club, and the name should reflect the

history involved with that hard work," he said.

"Changing the name won't solve anything. What will solve the challenges we face are increased marketing and attracting quality import players."

AWAY I GO!!!

Well its been a hard slog for both players and supporters since last issue.

Four points in eight games up till the Newcastle game. However, it has not all been bad news for the club, we have a new owner and a new home.

A home ground that has saved us from costly legal fees if a player like Colosimo had gone down on the cricket pitch. Imagine the cost to the club if Colosimo had seriously injured himself on the stupid pitch!! The Shaun Rehn AFL thing sure sped up our move out of Optus Oval.

But aside from that it's great to be playing at a real soccer ground rather than on a football field.

Well I think I may come up with a reason for our terrible form slump, ME. Since I have been going to all our matches, home and away, we have been losing. Gippsland, we lost, Northern Spirit, we lost, Canberra we lost, is this just coincidence or is it a message to get off their backs? Only time will tell.

Speaking of away matches, the Northern Spirit game was a lot of fun up till the 44th minute. No really the whole experience was great apart from some lack lustre defence in the second half. Another stupid goal seconds before the break cost us dearly. However, I had a great chat with some of the Spirit supporters over at Spirit Point

who were really glad to see opposition supporters make the trip, and not just d***** Olympic, Knights or Hellas fans.

Real supporters who love the game not a fight.

We had some great chants for each other during the game, especially since I had some great support from a group of Carlton Fans all the way from our feeder club the Narrellan Rangers in NSW. The game would have been tens as much fun if the game was on Friday, as planned until a genius from Soccer Australia thought

putting it on Valentines Sunday would be good, and the rest of the True Blues had made the trip.

However that wasn't the stupidest thing surrounding that game, it was the lame idea of some obsessed Spirit fan who thought a good way to propose to his girlfriend would be to get someone to parachute onto the ground with a big sign saying "Donna will you marry me?". Despite the many loud objections from me as to why it would be a big mistake to marry a Spirit supporter she agreed to the wedding happening before

their game against Canberra a few weeks later. The wedding is not going to work because the Spirit don't have a nice white shirt for the bride or a dark strip for the groom, unlike Carlton.



My trip to Canberra also proved disappointing in that we lost to the bottom team of the competition. But what surprised and shocked me was the fact that the worst team with the worst crowds had the best stadium. Bruce Stadium has got to be the best soccer/rugby stadium in Australia. It is just the right size and brand new. It has even been paid for by the government for the Olympics and the AIS. It is unfortunate that the people of Canberra do not go out and support their

team. It is not as though there is anything else to do in Canberra, unless you find Question time in the Senate exhilarating.

Well that is all from me for this issue, our final one for the season. We will be back bigger and better for next season. Have fun over the break and make sure you are back next season for the clubs re-launch.

Cheer up and look on the bright side of life!!!

Trumper

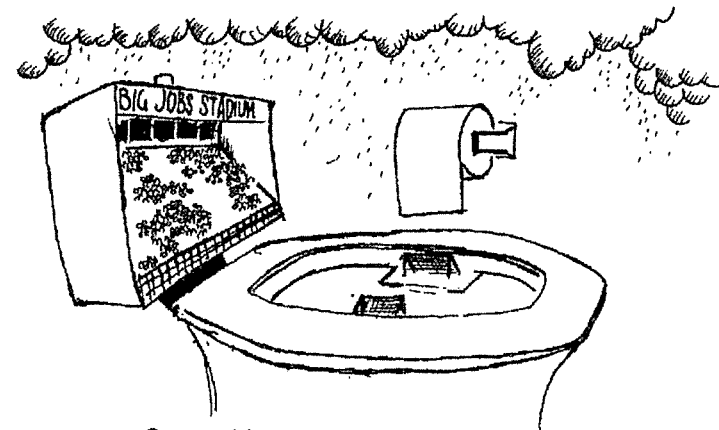
TRUMPER #2

Meet the new improved Trumper-Yodi, who first came to light at the Gippsland Falcons game where he taught us all that a trumpet at the football can sound good.

His music teacher must be happy too as he improves with every outing.

When you hear the last post at a match that's our boy.

All together now " We love you Yodi, we do..."



Some things aren't meant to be shared

WHAT IS WRONG WITH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER?

What is wrong with Australian Soccer? I recently had this question posed to me by a little green man who landed in my backyard in Moonee Ponds and sought consultations with my leader. What could I say?

"My leader's out doing shopping at the moment," I told him. "But perhaps I can help."

"OK" he said, eyeing my cat as if she might be a regular meal on the planet of the little green men.

So I told him; and when I'd finished he laughed his gnurdlefarkler off.

Where did I begin? Well, for a start the major problem with Australian Soccer is it's boring.

There are only two teams in the league. And you guessed it; even he'd heard of them; Spirits and Glories. They play each other every week, and in a phenomenon explainable only by Stephen Hawking, drop down the ladder by an inverse proportion to the publicity they garner divided by the square root (if you catch my drift) of the fans who turn up.

"We do have a team called the Carltons," I told him, and they're thinking of playing in the league too. He looked interested. "How would that help?" he asked. "They'll liven things up no end", I told him. "They might even win a game or two. And they can learn from the other codes." I had his full attention now; the cat wondered off with a look of relief. (Now she knows how the budgie sometimes feels).

We'll get a Referee's assistant" (linesman to anyone over ten) to study

Sterge's throw-in action. There must be something there; he throws it far too far. He can call him for foul throwing and Stabber can threaten to take the team off. We could have a full-blown riot, get banned for 10 years and fined \$10 million, suspended of course provided we weren't naughty again over the next five minutes. Maybe FIFA could X-Ray Sterge's elbow.

Then we could get Eddie and Fab to provide Optus cricket pitch reports to the entire league (the Spirits and the

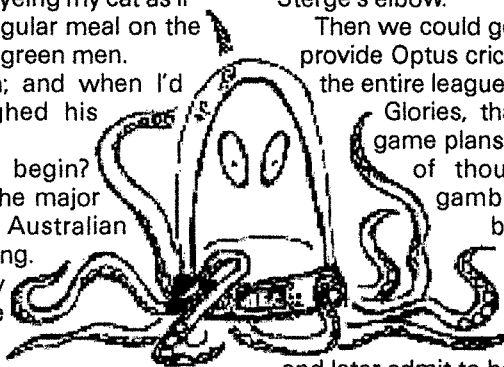
Glories, that is), disclose our game plans and take hundreds of thousands for casino gambling from a benefactor they can't say no to in case they hurt his cottonpicking Indian feelings, and later admit to being naïve and silly; no more said. (Fab, naïve and silly - they'd never buy that - would they?)

The little green man was looking decidedly worried. In fact, he was turning pink. "Stabber?" he stammered (or should that be stabbed). "X-Rays?"

Stabber, I said, standing up proudly, is our secret weapon. And X-Rays are what he fires. SO there, said the cat. The little green man decided he'd heard enough. Before he zoomed off, demolishing our Hills hoist with his gnurdlefarkler in the process, he gave a word of advice.

"Tell this story to the newspapers," he said. "That might get you some publicity." "Fat Chance," I said. "No, the only vehicle for this story is MBH. In fact there are several of the True Blues who see little green men regularly."

Bluie Stewie



GREAT REFEREES OF OUR TIME

1. The Red Baron

The Red Baron takes top spot for his memorable impersonation of Ray Charles at last year's GF. Who could forget THAT sequence when good cobbler Cone Boutsianis backstabbed Sean Douglas and raced away with the heist er ball and the Baron trying to keep up a good 50m down the pitch having lost his walking stick and whistling (we wish) in vain for Fido?

"You got it Boutsianis, the right one, uh-huh"

2. Victor Hugo

Ah, old Vic, a man with a bigger attitude than Cone himself. Watch the man play 20 minutes of added time in the first half, watch him run halftime out to 20 minutes and watch him (if you haven't fallen asleep) add 20 in the second half. The fairness of Judge Dredd, the inhibition of Judge Judy and the presence of Judge Wampner in the same package!

"The referee's a w*****, w*****, w*****" - Any CSC fan this season

3. Lenny Henry.

Not, as rumoured, born addicted to haggis. Something stronger, which Cone uses in great quantities... As refs go, Lenny isn't half bad. He tries to set a good example but only serves to highlight the immense gap between crapness and respectability.

"I'm so vain"

David A.

SO LONG AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH

This is the last issue of the season so it's a good time to thanks all those involved in mbh. Thanks to Richard and Sam for all their editorial input and great ideas, all the contributors who have provided some great articles and to all the letter writers. Thanks to those I won't mention by name for all your support and advice - you know who you are. A special thanks to the True Blues for their enthusiasm.

And finally thanks to Carlton for providing a team to passionately support.

See you next season ... Sally

Answers to the MBH Quiz

1. Lyngby of Denmark
2. Goalkeeper
3. Mark Atkinson
4. 2.000

5. Basil Scarsella
6. Daniel Allsopp
7. Adrian Cervinski

From your quizmaster Paul Winn.



IN OFF THE POST

APOLOGY TO MR PETER DESIRA

In the February 1999 edition of "My Blue Heaven", we published a letter received from 'Fabio' which conveyed a number of serious and defamatory imputations concerning Mr Peter Desira.

The imputations in question are false and without any foundation in fact.

We regret the publication of the letter and unreservedly apologise to Mr Desira for any hurt and embarrassment caused to him as a result of its publication.

Ms Sally Orpin
Editor
My Blue Heaven

Dear Editor,

Re: Peter Desira letter, issue 2 - "My Blue Heaven"

I do not agree with the letter written by 'Fabio'. In fact, the letter was damaging to the interests of the Carlton Soccer Club.

I know that Peter Desira has been a keen follower of soccer at Carlton from day one. He must still report what he feels is appropriate; even if at times his views might not coincide with yours or mine, we have big shoulders and must learn to cop those views.

Whilst your fanzine is a totally independent publication from the Carlton Soccer Club and the Club has no

say in it's contents, I would nonetheless like to point out that as its Editor you should attempt to ensure that its contents do not offend any one individual or group within our community.

I plead with you to be more selective in future in the views (such as "Fabio's") that you publish in "My Blue Heaven".

Yours truly
Lou Sticca
General Manager
Carlton Soccer Club

Dear Editor

I was born, raised, educated and live in Carlton. I love the Carlton Soccer Club and the Carlton footy club! 'Carlton' to me is a wonderful, magical word. But there are at least 2 things that are more wonderful and more magical than that word - the footy and soccer clubs themselves.

My involvement with the Carlton Soccer Club is one of the best things that has happened to me. A mere passing interest in the world game has been replaced by sheer passion. Every year now has 2 main seasons - the soccer season and the footy season (rather than the footy season and the waiting for the footy season) - plus a period of ultimate bliss when the 2 seasons overlap! And through the Club, I've made countless, fantastic new friends.

But - I WANT TO SEE US BECOME THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUB IN AUSTRALIA - both on and off the field! If that can happen without changing our name - great! As I said, to me 'Carlton' is a magical name. But I know that others don't feel the same way. I mean, I find the name 'Collingwood' repulsive, and can't imagine ever chanting it! So I suppose

I understand why one of my friends (a St Kilda supporter) claps and jumps and cheers and frantically waves the Carlton Soccer Club flag when Archie or Alex or Sterge the Purge shoots a screamer into the net, but just can't bring herself to join in the 'CARLTON' chant!

If convincing evidence should come to light that our Club is unlikely to flourish without a name change (and at this stage, we just don't know) - then let's change it! Let's call ourselves 'Melbourne' something or 'Victoria' something (or even something else)! Whatever name we come up with, it will be magical, because the magic is in the Club itself!

CARLTON (OR WHATEVER)
FOREVER!

Dear mbh,

I know that I am probably in a minority of about 1% on this particular issue but I just have to say it... I don't like the Australian national anthem being played before each NSL game.

I am not entirely sure why it makes me feel uneasy but it does. It is not because I am unpatriotic. Like 85,000 others I have been irreversibly emotionally crippled by that night at the MCG - Then I sang Advance Australia Fair as loud as my lungs would let me. It was an international event and the Australian national anthem was appropriate. Likewise at the NSL Grand Final. This is showpiece of the national competition so it should be play it there, but not at every single home and away game.

I think it strikes me as a "Banana Republic" attempt at arousing nationalism, rent-a-crowds waving placards of dictators, or a bit like the Red Square parades showing a false sense of national togetherness.

Obviously the majority of the crowd at Carlton games don't agree with me as there seems to be a positive response to the playing of the anthem. I guess at the very least it does offer ritual to mark the entrance of the players as the banner-run at AFL games does. I will stand and observe this ritual, but I save the unadulterated nationalism for special occasions.

Paris

Write to:
My Blue Heaven (letters),
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Melbourne 3000
Please include your name
and address
e-mail address:
mbheaven@hotmail.com

In the next MBH

EXCLUSIVE

"My Night of Passion with Top Carlton Star"
Roxanne reveals all.
"He scored four times...and I was sick as a Parrot."

FASHION

Jerome Lyford's Haircare tips.

WORLD FIRST

Lou in lost for words shock!!!

Yes he's left speechless.

UNBELIEVABLE

Ref admits mistake!!!!

Next issue of my blue heaven on sale first home game of next season \$2.

Sorry for the charge but we need to start covering costs.

TRUE BLUES

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRES

New owners, new venue...these are certainly interesting times for the Carlton Soccer Club! Peter Jess said the new owners would leave passion to the Club's supporters - and judging from the enthusiastic responses received from members of the True Blues to the questionnaires sent out a few months ago, passion is one thing we have in abundance! And those responses showed that we are not likely to ever be short of ideas either, or of people willing to devote time and energy to making this a great Club.

There were lots of suggestions regarding the types of groups (social, sporting, ethnic, cultural, professional) and events that should be targeted in our efforts to increase membership at the 'grass-roots' level. Most indicated their willingness to be actively involved in approaching the groups/organisers of events they suggested.

Several supported the notion of an 'open forum' for supporters, to discuss ideas for increasing the Club's membership and, if appropriate, ways of putting those ideas into action. We hope to hold such a forum soon after the end of this season - so between now and then, when

you come up with a brilliant (or even not-so-brilliant) idea - jot it down!

There was a general consensus that the True Blues should take an active role in promoting soccer in Australia generally, perhaps in collaboration with other supporters clubs, and in acting as a lobby group on such issues as TV coverage of the game.

Just about everyone said they would be interested in:

Trips to Carlton games interstate and in Gippsland (everyone enjoyed the recent trip to Gippsland)

Getting together at pubs/the Club to watch televised Carlton games

Informal get-togethers before and after home games

Special finals functions

Attending international games (Socceroos, Olyroos etc)

Social activities such as BBQs, trivia nights, etc

Thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire. If you have any other ideas, suggestions (even complaints!) - please let us know. Write them down and send them to the True Blues at PO Box 13078, Law Courts, Melbourne, 3000, and/or speak to Sam, Nick or Richard next time you see them and/or raise them at the forum. This is your Club - your ideas and views matter!

